

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NEAE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /069 W

----- 076090

O R 071410Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5893

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1790

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI AMBASSADOR'S CALL RE SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
YARG

1. ON AFTERNOON OF JULY 7 SAUDI AMBASSADOR MUSAID A. AL-
SUDAIRI CALLED AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS RECENT REPORTS
THAT YARG INTENDS TO ACCEPT MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE
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SOVIET UNION. I BRIEFED HIM IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT

EVENTS OF LAST FEW DAYS TELLING HIM THAT YARG HAS IN FACT BEEN SUBJECTED TO HEAVY PRESSURES OVER THE LAST MONTH FROM THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHO SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK MADE OPEN-ENDED OFFER OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PRESIDENT HAMDI IF LATTER ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION IN AUGUST. (I DID NOT TELL HIM OF THE JULY 9 DEADLINE SINCE EVENTS HAVE OVER TAKEN THIS ELEMENT OF THE STORY). I TOLD SUDAIRI THAT AS A RESULT OF MY MEETING WITH FONMIN ABDULLA AL-ASNAG YESTERDAY, JULY 7, YARG HAS AGREED TO POSTPONE ANY FINAL DECISION ACCEPTING SOVIET OFFER UNTIL AFTER DEPUTY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI VISITS RIYADH DURING EARLY PART OF AUGUST. I URGED SAUDE AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF THE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO BEGIN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM FOR THE YEMEN ARMY IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS SOVIET INTENTION TO COMBAT ANY EFFORTS TO LESSEN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN YEMEN.

2. AMBASSADOR SUDAIRI CONCEDED NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO IMPLEMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM BUT WONDERED IF YARG MIGHT NOT BE EXAGGERATING SITUATION IN ORDER TO SPEED UP SAG-USG RESPONSE. I TOLD HIM THAT WHILE THIS WAS POSSIBLE, I NONETHELESS BELIEVE THAT IT IS SOVIETS WHO ARE APPLYING THE PRESSURE ON YARG AND FOR THIS REASON IT IS NECESSARY THAT SAG AND USG RESPOND QUICKLY AND POSITIVELY TO YEMENI REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SUDAIRI CONFIRMED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE OVER LAST MONTH AND AGREED THAT USG AND SAG MUST SUPPORT HAMDI AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. HE THEN ASKED IF USG HAS INFORMED SAG AND I TOLD HIM THAT OUR EMBASSY JIDDA IS FULLY AWARE OF SITUATION AND WOULD CERTAINLY BE IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE SAG OFFICIALS.

3. COMMENT: SUDAIRI DOUBTLESS CAME TO CALL AS A RESULT OF FONMIN ASNAG'S MEETING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE. HE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE FULLY AU COURANT. HE AND HIS MILITARY
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ATTACHE HAVE HOWEVER, NOT ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE PAST WHILE SUDAIRI HIMSELF IS NEITHER THAT INTELLIGENT OR EFFECTIVE AN AMBASSADOR. IN ANY EVENT I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR EMBASSY JIDDA, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, TO BRIEF APPROPRIATE LEVELS IN THE SAG OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT OUR SAUDI FRIENDS KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE AND THEREBY TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS DUE

TO MIS-INFORMATION WHICH SAUDI AMBASSADOR MIGHT
PICK UP IN SANA OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
SCOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMED FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANA01790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-1010
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750780/aaaactud.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI AMBASSADOR'S CALL RE SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YARG
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, SA, US, (SUDAIRI, MUSAIID A AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006